

NZMEB news

Examiner Profiles:

This newsletter and others for 2009, will contain info about some of the examiners to introduce them to you and to tell you why this person has been appointed an examiner in our prestigious music organisation in New Zealand.

John van Buskirk: BMus from Eastman School of Music/University of Rochester USA, MM from Juilliard School USA and Post Diploma Studies at Liszt Academy, Budapest

John Van Buskirk, a versatile pianist, has played from Los Angeles and New York to Budapest and Prince Edward Island to the Netherland Antilles as a recitalist, chamber music player and recital partner to singers and instrumentalists. He graduated from the Eastman School of Music and holds a Master's Degree from the Juilliard School; he completed post-graduate study at the Liszt Academy in Budapest. While living in New York City he played in The Music Today Ensemble, The New York Chamber Symphony and the Mostly Mozart Orchestra of Lincoln Center. In New England, he taught at Bennington College, Westfield State College and Smith College. He has played for broadcast on NPR/US and the BBC/UK. Mr. Van Buskirk has made over twenty-five recordings as a member of the New York Chamber Symphony and the Harmonie Ensemble among others. His solo recordings include *Music of Robert Schumann*—Newport Classics, *The Art of the Fortepiano*—Lyricord as well as *Songs of Robert Schumann*, with Jane Bryden, soprano—Gasparo. Mr. Van Buskirk has played with the Mendelssohn Quartet, members of the Guarneri Quartet, the Jacques Thibaud String Trio, the Ying Quartet and at music festivals throughout New England. He recently relocated to Dunedin, New Zealand where he performs with Tessa Petersen as the violin/piano duo *La Belle Alliance*. His most recent recording is of Allen Shawn's *Messages*, on Albany (Allen Shawn Piano Music, Vol II, released in 2009).



sound values

Certificates

Certificates for both practical and theory have been sent to all teachers who had successful students in 2009.

Theory Exams:

Both the markers report and the 2009 exams are on-line now.

Sponsorship

Currently NZMEB is involved in several sponsoring opportunities:

- The Michael Houstoun Concert in Auckland in September next year. More information about this in the next newsletter.
- The IRMT conference in January – look out for our table at the conference in Hamilton
- The Sweet Louise Foundation: Sweet Louise was set up for people to donate nice things to women with secondary cancer from breast cancer. Sweet Louise have approached us to ask for a musician to play at their Wellington Christmas function and of course we are delighted to provide one of young budding musicians. Details about Sweet Louise are available on their website: <http://www.sweetlouise.co.nz/>

Timetable for 2010:

30th April – deadline for practical entries

1st – 31st August Practical exams

31st August – deadline for theory entries

30th October – Theory exam day

New Syllabuses:

In 2010, NZMEB will be offering the option of “Violin for Pleasure”, “Clarinet for Pleasure” etc for all instruments rather than just piano. These new syllabuses go on line in this month and January.

Website Tips:

History: All the old newsletters are on-line so you can read them at any time.

This time: We plan to add a footnote to all the pages so that teachers can quickly see that they are teaching off the latest syllabus

Teaching Tips:

Plan your 2010 teaching program early to be ready for the start of the new education year.

Have regular newsletters to inform parents and students of concert times and term dates as well as exam entry dates.

Contribute your tips to us at NZMEB@xtra.co.nz with “tips” in the subject line.

Office Hours over the summer

The office will be closed for the three week period from Friday 25th December and reopens on Monday 18th January. However phone messages and e-mails will be cleared from time to time over this period so feel free to contact us either way. Phone numbers for urgent responses are Pauline Alexander on 07 576 5725 or Beverley Read on 07 576 9012.

Holiday Wishes

All of us at NZMEB wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and an enjoyable break before the busy 2010 teaching season begins!

Beverley Holder

National Administrator